

MODERN DRUMMER®

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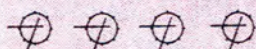
BOOKS

THE WORLD OF FLAMS

by Dan Tomlinson

(Drum Addiction Publications)

\$15



A whole book on flams!? Yes, eighty-plus pages of them, and surprisingly, nary a one is wasted. Looking at flams under Mr. Tomlinson's microscope, one finds that there's more to these seemingly simple critters than most of us even dreamed of—let alone hold securely in our pocket.

Tomlinson, who has worked with players ranging from the fusiony Acoustic Alchemy to Lyle Lovett, permutes and tweaks the seven "common" flams by changing the volume and placement of—and "distance" between—their principal and grace notes, yielding a total of twenty-three variations. Yes, he's splitting hairs, and some of the variations are commonly used by many drummers. But identifying and mastering flams' distinguishing characteristics will pay significant dividends in terms of control, enabling the student to consciously and *precisely* select the desired sound, rather than allowing it to be determined by happenstance or the unconsidered pre-position of his or her hands. Less obviously, it will make the student more aware and in control of flams' influence on beat placement, and thus, of locking in with other players.

Basic analyses and exercises are followed by flammed rudiments, as well as fills in jazz, funk, rock, double kick, and Afro-Cuban contexts. Because some flam variations are identified with, and to a degree even define, these styles, Tomlinson has done us all a service by exploring them for the first time with such clarity, and in such depth.

Rich Watson